

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of October 29, 2003.

All of the Examiner's objections and rejections are traversed.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-5 remain in this application. New claim 6 has been added.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haber (U.S. Patent N. 5,136,147) in view of Romney (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,322) and further in view of Doyle (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,696).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haber in view of Doyle and further in view of Labozzeta (U.S. Patent No. 5,107,269).

Claims 1-7 are distinguished from the cited art.

Claims 1-7 Are Distinguished From the Cited Art

The present application teaches a novel method for securing the integrity of files prior to archiving and involves an exchange between a client and a Time Source Provider (a trusted third party). In particular, as illustrated in amended claim 1, both the Client and the Time Source Provider require the ability to generate Public and Private Key pairs. Further, the encrypted data and file attributes along with the client's Public Key are transmitted to the Time Source Provider. The Time Source Provider decrypts the encrypted data and file attributes with the Time Source Provider's Private Key and then with the client's Public Key. These concepts are not taught or suggested by the references cited in the Office Action.

Haber relates to a method of time-stamping a digital document and authenticating the document by means of the agency's public key to reveal the receipt. The receipt comprises the hash of the alleged document along with the time seal that only the agency could have signed into the certificate. Haber does not, however, teach or suggest the steps of generating Private and Public Key pairs for the client and the Time Source Provider or using the Key pairs for encrypting and decrypting the data and file attributes.

While Romney does disclose the step of the client generating a public/private key pair, it does not disclose the additional steps of the Time Source Provider generating its own public/private key pair, whereby the two sets of key pairs are used to encrypt and decrypt the data and file attributes (see FIG. 2 in Romney). Further, there is no motivation to modify Haber to generate a Public and Private Key pair and signature the encrypted data as taught in Romney (see Col. 2, lines 1-21 of Haber).

Doyle relates to relates to the digital time stamping of data, without the need for subsequent third party verification, by the chaining of key pairs, the key pairs being generated for particular time intervals. Doyle, does not, however, teach or suggest the concepts of the present application, such as generating a Public and Private Key pair for both the client and the Time Source Provider and then using the Key pairs to encrypt and decrypt the files.

New claims 6 and 7 have been added to further clarify the present application. Claim 6 is further discussed in the present application on page 8, lines 1-8, while Claim 7 is further discussed in the present application on page 9, lines 21-29.

CONCLUSION

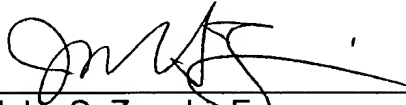
For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-7) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment A. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby authorized to call John S. Zanghi, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

1/29/04

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